

In Iraq, U.N. weapons inspectors dig in for long haul

By Dilip Ganguly

The Associated Press
BAGHDAD — U.N. weapons inspectors are convinced Iraq is hiding powerful weapons for some future mischief and are digging in for a long stay, determined to outwit Iraq.

The U.N. special commission has uncovered and destroyed vast amounts of war material since it began tracking down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

But the inspectors believe that with each success, Iraqi concealment efforts increase. This, coupled with a decrease in intelligence tip-offs, has only intensified the inspectors' cat and mouse game with Iraq.

Although no ballistic missiles have been found for almost a year, the inspectors believe scores of Soviet-made Scud-B missiles and their Iraqi-made variants remain hidden. U.S. intelligence estimates as many as 200 remain.

There has also been little news of Iraq's nuclear programme.

Patrice Palanque of France led his missile team on a surprise swoop outside Baghdad in February because he had "absolutely solid evidence" that Scuds were hidden there. An eight-hour air and land search yielded nothing.

Mr. Palanque told the Associated Press he has no doubt there are missiles out there. There are also nagging suspicions that enriched uranium, needed for nuclear weapons, and other material has been stashed away.

Iraq denies it is concealing anything.

"The U.N. goes every-

where," said Husam Mohamad Amin, who heads the Iraqi team assigned to the inspectors. "But they're finding nothing because we have nothing to hide."

The United Nations is pressuring Baghdad to accept a long-term monitoring plan designed to prevent it from rebuilding its war machine. But the Iraqis want the teams gone for good, as quickly as possible.

Pierce Corden, the commission's American deputy chairman, said "the bottom line is that we can't be sure Iraq won't embark on a new weapons programme" if U.N. monitoring ceases.

"We all understand it's going to be a long haul," said Kevin St. Louis, an American who is one of the commission's field officers. "We're getting ready for it."

Despite handing over piles of documents, Baghdad has still not identified suppliers for its weapons programmes or the foreign scientists believed to have played a key role in the nuclear programme.

The U.N. officials say that until they get their hands on that data, Baghdad has no hope of having the Security Council lift the economic sanctions it imposed on Iraq in August 1990.

Baghdad's record of deception also convinces the inspectors that it cannot be trusted. Iraq originally declared only 52 Soviet-built Scud-B missiles or their Iraqi-made variants. The inspectors forced Baghdad to admit it had another 89. These have been destroyed.

The Iraqis initially claimed they had only 20 fixed-missile launchers that escaped the

1991 war. The U.N. teams discovered five more.

Iraq said it had only six mobile launchers, but 13 were found.

Baghdad said it had 53 conventional and chemical missile warheads. The inspectors uncovered 135.

Three of Iraq's so-called superguns, massive artillery pieces supposedly capable of firing shells hundreds of kilometres, have also been destroyed.

Some 150,000 chemical munitions have been pinpointed and are being destroyed. Iraq's biological weapons programme has been arrested.

The \$1 billion complex at Muthanna, 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, which was Iraq's main chemical weapons factory, is being systematically dismantled.

The inspectors feel that Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been seriously depleted with the recent demolition of the Al Athear facility south of Baghdad, the programme's technical core.

But they believe Iraq is still capable of reviving the programme.

"You can store the knowledge of how to make a nuclear weapon in your brain or in a computer," said Dimitri Pericos, a nuclear expert who has completed 10 missions in Iraq. "Since we can't take away Iraqi brains, the only way to stop them from starting afresh is to block the supply of components."

"So, until we have a complete list of their suppliers to help us block them, we can't certify that everything has been done that can be done."



MODELLING: The wax figure of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein gets the final touches at Madame Tussaud's exhibition in London Tuesday before being placed in the main hall (AFP photo)

Rabin and Clinton offer nothing new to Palestinians

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday offered absolutely nothing to Palestinians that might help persuade them to resume stalled Middle East peace talks next month.

Palestinians and other Arabs had hoped Mr. Rabin would unveil some concession on the issue of the 415 residents of the occupied territories he expelled to South Lebanon in December — the incident which caused the peace talks to be suspended.

But Mr. Clinton said the issue did not even come up.

"No, we did not discuss that. As far as I'm concerned, the secretary of state and the prime minister reached an agreement on that, and I think that is the framework within which we are proceeding," he said.

The message to the Palestinians was stark and unmistakable: The days of former President George Bush when Israel and the United States were at odds are over. They now face a tough choice of returning to the talks under Israel's terms or not at all.

"The signal was that the deportee issue is secondary. If the Palestinians were looking for some public concession on which they could peg a decision to resume peace talks they didn't get it," said Robert Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

If there were peace aid could even increase, he said.

"If there is indeed a breakthrough to peace in the region

that would transform the environment and there is a sense in which the United States would then be prepared to help compensate Israel for risks it would take to make peace," the official said.

On Israeli-Syrian peace, Mr. Clinton said it must involve "full normalization, diplomatic relations, open borders, commerce, tourism, the human bonds that are both the fruits and the best guarantee of peace. And Israel's security must be assured."

The Rabin government had said it would be willing to negotiate withdrawal from at least part of the occupied Golan Heights with Syria but only after Damascus committed itself to full peace, the kind of peace outlined by Mr. Clinton.

Syria said it will discuss the nature of peace only after Israel has committed itself to full withdrawal.

Bilaterally, the meeting was full of other good things for Israel — increased strategic cooperation, joint science and technology projects and a U.S. pledge to maintain its military advantage over any possible combination of Arab enemies.

Mr. Rabin's opening words in his news conference were not just a standard statement of thanks. They described the situation.

"President Clinton," he said, "in just a few days I will return to Israel, but I know, and will tell everyone in my country, Israel has a friend in the White House."

NEWS ANALYSIS

The symbolism of the Clinton-Rabin meeting was significant for other reasons as well. Mr. Clinton clearly came down on Israel's side in its debate with Syria over the aim of the negotiations and seemed to commit Washington to preserve U.S. aid to the Jewish state at its current 3 billion a year.

The administration is supporting a request for maintaining the levels for fiscal year 1994 and the president made it clear that we would make our best efforts to maintain those levels beyond those years, a senior White House official said.

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"If there is indeed a breakthrough to peace in the region

Soldiers hit the classroom to teach English, math in Somalia

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Specialist Lisa Pettit sat on the sun-drenched balcony, surrounded by rapt Somali children who eagerly awaited the next homemade flashcard.

Their weekly two hour class was under way, and it was obvious this was no chore for kids who had not seen a textbook in two years.

Ms. Pettit is among a group of army staff who volunteer their Saturday mornings to teach math and English at a school with no name. It is located at feeding centre 53, across the road from the compound that houses the headquarters of Operation Restore Hope.

"The children were just skeletons when they got here," said Abdi Kadir Hassan Gelle, who runs the centre for the Red Cross and Swedish church relief. As their nutrition improved, their parents asked us to give them an education. The food they get is still not enough, but the children are the future, and teaching them is what we have to do."

The school has been operating about six months. A month ago, the Americans were asked to help. Members of the 593rd army support group, several of whom had never been outside the heavily-guarded military centre, responded.

What started then as three classes has swelled to 500 children in nine makeshift rooms and the balcony of what once was a former general's quarters before civil war devastated much of Mogadishu.

Four dusty fields adjacent to the building are home to 2,600 displaced people in makeshift huts made of scraps of plastic,



Soldiers serving in the multinational force in Somalia spend their time off at Mogadishu beach (AFP photo)

cardboard, sticks, ropes and anything else that can be scavenged. Across the road are unmarked graves for the 420 children who died here of starvation and disease.

The windows and doors of the two story building have been stripped of their glass and frames.

But the kids, ranging from about first grade age to early teens, are squirming elbow to elbow on the handmade, plywood desks and benches, having heard the military vehicles roll into the complex.

Today, Ms. Pettit is running late. As soon as she walks into the room, the 35 kids clap and laugh. She starts off with a recitation drill, with the children repeating as best they can: "One little, two little, three little, four little Somali boys," before handing into the alphabet song.

The class moves outside, and Ms. Pettit sits in the centre of a circle with the flashcards, then launches into the hokey pokey dance.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 31/12

Deserts 8/20

Jordan Valley 17/19

Yesterdays high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hassan (—)

Khalidh pharmacy 983417

In another classroom, 10-year-old Ahmad Hassan tried to try five times and get a lot of coaching from patient Captain Jose Belardo, before he correctly spells "three." His fellow students break out in applause, and Capt. Belardo hands out a candy chew as a reward.

Teaching is in Capt. Ruditski's blood. His father was a teacher, and he says he has developed a taste for it himself.

"We're here for a humanitarian mission, and this is a great opportunity to come out and do something," said Capt. Ruditski. "It's a lot of fun, and I get a lot out of it with the kids."

It is hard to envision any of these children throwing rocks at troops, a daily hazard for the convoys and patrols.

Maybe the reason is the home work. There is not any. There is no lesson plan, either.

"We make it up as we go," said Major Jerry Bush. "The kids are like sponges. They soak it all up."

Police have claimed responsibility for the murders of intelligence chiefs, police sources, the agency said.

The bombings which followed a recent series of police crackdowns on the underground Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) urban guerrilla group.

Last week, the police killed a top Dev-Sol leader and three suspected members and captured more than 30 in a series of raids in Istanbul. Media reports said Syria, under pressure from Turkey to end its alleged support to extremist groups, had tipped the Turkish intelligence about Dev-Sol militants infiltrating Turkey from its territory.

Large caches of arms, including rocket propelled grenades, were seized by the police in the raids.

The crackdown on the guerrilla group continued with the announced arrest in Ankara over the weekend of four suspects accused of planning to assassinate cabinet members and leading officials.

Dev-Sol has claimed responsibility for the murders of intelligence chiefs, police officials,

several retired generals and foreign nationals in recent years.

Anonymous phone callers to Turkish newspapers claimed responsibility for the Istanbul attack in the name of the Turkish Workers Peasants Liberation Army (TKKO).

TIKKO, a pro-Chinese left-wing group, claimed responsibility for a series of recent bombings and bank robberies.

Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin

Mondays said Turkey would take measures to prevent bloodshed during the Nowruz festival, which falls this coming weekend.

More than 100 people were killed in violence during last year's Nowruz festival in the southeast, where the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) was been carrying out a nine year campaign for Kurdish independence.

More than 5,500 people have died in Turkey since the beginning of the PKK's guerrilla war.

(Continued from page 1)

Bomb blasts throughout Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Explosive devices and firebombs damaged over two dozen banks and several businesses in seemingly coordinated attacks Monday night throughout Turkey, wounding eight people, Anatolia news agency said.

In the mining town of Zonguldak, northwest Turkey, unidentified assailants buried high yield bombs at two banks, at around 8 p.m., severely wounding two, Anatolia reported.

At about the same time, firebombs were thrown at 23 places, mostly banks and insurance companies in Istanbul. The report said. The attackers also set fire to a parked streetcar.

Anatolia said a bank and an automobile gallery in the southeastern industrial town of Adana and another bank in Bursa, northwest Turkey, were also damaged in the bombing.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday hosts an iftar banquet in honour of non-commissioned officers from the Armed Forces, the Public Security and Civil Defence departments. Prince Hassan and the invitees performed Al Maghreb prayer. The Crown Prince conveyed to the audience the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein.

Crown Prince receives visiting Pakistani naval crew docked in Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received at the command of the southern region the crew of two visiting Pakistani navy ships now docked at Aqaba port.

In his meeting with the Pakistani servicemen, the Crown Prince stressed the close relations binding Jordan and Pakistan and conveyed to them His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and best wishes for the people of Pakistan of further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Pakistani ambassador in Amman, the commander of the two ships, the president of the Aqaba Region Authority, the Aqaba district governor, the chief of staff of the land forces, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, the commander of the southern region and the commander of the Jordanian Marine Force.

The commander of the two ships told Jordan Television that the three-day visit by the two ships comes at an invitation by the Jordanian navy commander. "We have very friendly ties between Pakistan and Jordan and the Jordanian navy commander invited us to visit, and we are very happy to come here," he said.

"In fact, this is the first visit by any Pakistani ships to Jordan and I am very proud that I am commanding these two ships off our first visit to Jordan. I thank you for the hospitality that we have

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Road accidents decrease in 1st week of March

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and 147 injured in 354 road accidents, which took place in various parts of Jordan during the period Feb. 27 through March 6, according to Traffic Department sources. The sources said Amman ranked first in the number of accidents with 211 cases, followed by Zarqa with 43, and Irbid with 32. Maan and Tafileh governorates recorded the lowest number of accidents, with one accident each. The sources blamed the accidents on tailgating,reckless driving, violation of traffic priorities (right of way), neglect, failure to abide by road signs, wrong overtaking and speeding. But the sources said the reporting week witnessed a decrease in the number of accidents, deaths and injuries, compared with the week ending Feb. 25.

Senior American medical team arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-man senior medical delegation from the United States will arrive here Friday on a four-day visit to Jordan in response to an invitation extended to them by the Arab Centre for Heart (ACH). Dr. Floyd Loop, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Dr. Bernardine Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health in Washington and Dr. Mehdi Razavi, chairman of the International Centre at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. They will also discuss scopes of scientific and practical cooperation between the ACH and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. The team's programme includes a visit to Hussein Medical Centre and a lecture on cardiac diseases and surgery.

White cement is up for sale again

ZARQA (Petra) — The white cement factories Monday started offering white cement to distributors and merchants in the Kingdom, according to the director general of the company. In a memorandum sent by the director to the governor of Zarqa, the director called for coordinating efforts in providing citizens with their needs of white cement without any complications. He said the production of white cement at the factories was stopped for a short period because of annual maintenance works at various parts of the factory.

House administrative panel reviews citizens' complaints

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Administrative Committee Tuesday held a meeting and discussed several proposals and complaints by citizens, committee rapporteur Fuad Al Khalafat said the committee also discussed in action by some ministries to reply to complaints sent to them by the committee.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Scientific exhibition of projects designed by students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), including computers and computer programmes, at JUST.

★ Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery, copperware, from the Widad Kawar collection — at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

★ British film entitled "My Left Foot" at 7 p.m. at the British Council (98 min.).

Teacher trainees continue sit-in at UNRWA centre

Protest action brings attention to new qualification standards

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Students undergoing teachers training at a U.N. agency facility in Amman continued a sit-in protest for the fourth day Tuesday, kindling fresh debate on a problem faced by thousands of teachers in Jordan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi said he was planning to raise the issue with the Council of Ministers during Tuesday's regular session.

The protesting students at the Amman Training Centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees are demanding that the agency provide a quota for employing some of them at its various schools and others be allowed to continue studies at the institution and secure a degree which will qualify them for employment as teachers in Jordan.

A decision adopted by the First National Conference on Education held in 1988, demands that all teachers in Jordan should be holders of a university degree in teaching and that diploma holders would not be employed as teachers.

The decision means that diploma holders already working as teachers should "upgrade" themselves with a university degree or face retrenchment by the year 1997, when the measure goes into effect.

"There is no definite law regarding this point," said Mr. Hindawi. "At any rate, I am going to raise the issue during today's (Tuesday) Cabinet session."

Informal officials said mean-

while the government was planning to extend the so-called deadline for the implementation of the decision.

"It is possible that the Ministry of Education might extend the deadline to the year 2,000 instead of 1997, in view of the number of teachers involved and the limited training facilities available in Jordan," said a well-informed source.

It is estimated that around 28,000 diploma-holding teachers are now working in government schools alone. In addition, several thousand others are employed by community colleges and other institutions.

The Amman Training Centre, established in 1968, has already secured government approval for its teachers training courses to be recognised as university education carrying a degree with effect from the 1993-94 scholastic year.

In the meantime, the centre plans to let the current two-year diploma courses continue, allowing the secondary school students to complete the course this term and the first-year students to enter the second year and complete the course next year.

The problem faced by the facility, as explained by UNRWA officials, is: It needs to give priority to its own 1,800-strong teaching staff in the "university grade" courses to comply with

the decision at the conference on education law and therefore is unable to provide enough seats to fresh students.

The officials explained that the centre could offer only 275 seats and that it had proposed to set aside 75 seats for fresh students.

Omar Ghabayen, deputy field education officer of UNRWA in Jordan, said that the centre had a capacity of 275 students and it was unable to take more since it did not have the physical facilities.

"It would need more buildings, staff and funds," said Mr. Ghabayen.

The decision rests with the UNRWA headquarters and policymakers," he told the Jordan Times.

In the meantime, he said, "we are helpless," adding that "it is mainly a government problem and not a UNRWA problem."

"If the government changes its policy and goes back to approving the employment of diploma-holders, then we will be in a position

to settle the problem."

Denis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, described the sit-in action as "very passive."

Mr. Brown noted that UNRWA, despite being a U.N. agency with administrative independence, had to follow government guidelines and regulations, and as such, it was unable to meet the students' demands.

"The students are protesting against government policy" and not UNRWA decisions, he said.

Matar Saqar, UNRWA public information officer, said senior UNRWA officials held a round of talks with the students Saturday but no solution was forthcoming.

"We are keen to end the strike and resume normal activities at the centre," he said.

The protesters, said to include both first- and second-year teaching students at the centre, are trying to lobby Parliament into intervening on their behalf and solving the problem.

In the meantime, "mischievous

elements" were blamed for causing an uproar among the female students.

"Apparently the parents were not aware of the protest action in the centre," said one informant.

"Someone called the parents some of the female students informed them that their daughters were 'not attending' class, suggesting that they may be involved in 'immoral' activities."

"Some of the fathers were enraged and came to the centre to find out what their daughters were doing," said the source, adding that he could not confirm reports that some of the men carried guns in largely typ-

"immorally."

Told that their daughters were only involved in a passive student protest action, "they understood the situation and went away without creating the problem," accord-

ing to the source.

House speaker discusses Mideast peace with visiting Canadian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Tuesday praised Canada's role in advancing the cause of peace and called on the Canadian government to play a major role in enhancing international cooperation and advancing understanding between the world's nations.

At a meeting with the visiting deputy director of the Canadian Foreign Affairs and International Trade Department, Dr. Mohammad Al Aklie, who came to Jordan after August 1991.

He pointed out that the establishment of a centre for studies on freedom, democracy and human rights in the Arab World was the culmination of Jordan, a democratic march.

The Canadian official lauded Jordan's firm and principled stands, and voiced hope that all obstacles facing the resumption of the peace talks will be overcome.

He praised the democratic path Jordan has charted.

Social security office issues new regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) Tuesday issued new regulations organising insurance against service-related injuries and profession-related diseases.

Under the new regulations, employers have to inform the police authorities within 24 hours of any injury to any of the employees, resulting from a criminal act, road accidents and other incidents, such as fires, explosions, landslides and the like.

The regulations said employers should inform the SSC, directly or through any of its branches and offices, of all service-related injuries within a week of the date of injury. The regulations allow the affected person or any of his/her family members to inform the SSC in case the employer fails to do so in due course.

To honour any insurance claims resulting from any incidents, accidents or injuries, the regulations stipulated that employers should provide the SSC with the original documents or authenticated photocopies of all medical reports, prescriptions, X-ray reports, results of medical

laboratory tests, invoices covering doctors' fees, pharmacists and X-ray fees, and hospital bills, in addition to copies of the police investigation reports, if any.

Following receipt and examination of all such documents, the SSC will pay the minimum hospitalisation and/or treatment fees prescribed by the Ministry of Health or the specialised professional associations.

Under the new regulations, no external treatment claims are honoured unless external treatment is recommended by the Higher Medical Board, which will authorise such payment if treatment is not available in Jordan.

The regulations allow for the payment of daily allowances in cases of temporary disability, but such allowances are paid for the whole disability period provided that the insured present medical reports to this effect.

If the insured person becomes totally disabled or dies, the allowance will not be terminated.

The SSC computes the daily allowance in case of disability on the basis of the salary.

The insured will take his/her right to receive daily allowances if he or she resumes work during the period of temporary disability.

The new regulations allowed employers to request an advance payment from the SSC to be debited to the injuries account, if the treatment period exceeded three months.

The regulations called on the insured persons with injuries to call at the SSC if their sick-leave exceeds two months, because any leave beyond this period should be approved by the corporation's medical officer.

Both sides also reviewed Japan's assistance to the foundation which has included an observatory and a mini-planetarium for the Haya Arts Centre and volunteer instructors at the NHF National Music Conservatory.

Mr. and Mrs. Ikeda then watched a slide presentation on NHF development projects and programmes in the areas of family and community development, women, children, culture and heritage, and education.

The presentation also highlighted NHF's philosophy which draws on reinforcing self-reliance, securing steady income for families and integrating women into the developing process.

Mr. and Mrs. Ikeda then toured the Jordan Design and Trade Centre.

Japanese envoy, spouse visit NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda and his wife Tuesday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), and were briefed by its president and its director general of NHF income-generating projects implemented in the area of integrated and comprehensive community development in Jordan.

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Most returnees await U.N. restitution before considering investing in Jordan

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over forty per cent of Gulf war returnees are awaiting U.N. restitution before deciding to invest their money in the Jordanian economy or not, according to a recent Department of Statistics study conducted among some 70,000 returnees who came to Jordan after August 1991.

About 16 per cent of the returnees polled said that they intended to begin investment ventures in Jordan, 38 per cent said that they did not, and 45 per cent said that they had "not yet decided."

Returnees have claimed about \$3 billion in restitution from the U.N. Compensation Commission in Geneva.

Most of those asking for com-

pensation are expected to invest in Jordan in the construction, trade, industrial or agricultural sectors.

Of those polled, 42 per cent said they intended to invest in commercial ventures, 24 per cent intended to invest in the services sector, 7 per cent opted for the agricultural sector and 4.5 per cent chose the industrial sector.

More than half the returnees who were questioned in the survey had spent more than 20 years as expatriates in Kuwait and said that, on the average, they had lost about JD 10,000 as a result of their sometimes-forced return to Jordan.

The vast majority of Jordanian and Palestinian returnees were told that they could no longer work or live in the Gulf state of Kuwait in the post war period.

According to the Department of Statistics census, 30.25 per cent

of the returnees who were in the computer, banking and services sector is said to have boosted standards in the Kingdom in those given sectors, according to a Ministry of Labour official Mohammad Abdol Hadi Al Aklie, who is in charge of processing the returnee restitution claims to the U.N. Compensation Commission in Geneva.

Only one third, or 28.34 per cent, reported that they had worked in production service and 21.57 per cent reported that they had been employed in clerical posts.

Of the more than 70,000 Jordanian and Palestinian returnees who returned to Jordan from Kuwait between August 1991 and December 1992, about 19,199 were active members of the work force, and 12,470 were students above the age of 15. The rest were 15,150, homemakers or unemployed.

According to the Department of Statistics census, 30.25 per cent

Activists call for unprejudiced U.N. representative to defend human rights

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Human rights activists Monday called on Arab countries to adopt a better system for exchanging information and to seek to have an unbiased representative at the U.N. to defend human rights issues.

The proposal, seconded by human rights activist and lawyer Asma Khader, was in reference to an issue also raised by other speakers at the round-table: Israel getting away without punishment even after censure by the U.N. over its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories, while Arab and other countries taken to task for their record on human rights.

The round-table heard loud expressions of "deep concern over imperialist and Zionist practices" and over the "double-standard policy" superpowers apply against underdeveloped countries.

"Tens of resolutions were passed by the United Nations conde-

ning the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, but still none of them was fully implemented," said Imad Sharqawi, a Jordanian lawyer.

"Selective and double standards might end up in greater violence and explosions," warned Laila Naffa, a human rights activist. "We (in the Arab countries) should not follow the same steps (of the West), we should work towards more objectivity and credibility."

Some participants at the conference, mostly researchers and political party leaders, criticised

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Peace — Israel style

THE VISIT of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to the United States seems to have achieved what was not expected of it: More tangible U.S. support for Tel Aviv and a much more forceful pledge to its security and other needs.

Compare the force of this commitment to the shy and lukewarm statements in support of international demands on Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions, and the obvious conclusion is that the Arabs should fear — and not urge — more U.S. involvement in the resuscitated peace effort.

The tilt of the new U.S. administration towards Israel, which was so clearly demonstrated during Mr. Rabin's joint press conference with President Bill Clinton on Monday, is at best disappointing, and at worst alarming, about the future of the peace process and the hope for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President Clinton promised Mr. Rabin a continued U.S. commitment to Israel's military superiority in the region, initiated with him a dialogue to raise the U.S.-Israeli relationship on a new level of strategic partnership and will send the Israeli prime minister home with a pledge to maintain the billions of dollars of aid his country receives from Washington.

President Clinton did in fact reiterate his country's determination to keep the peace process alive. But the kind of peace he spoke of seems to be the one advocated by Rabin — and no one else.

The president said he wanted a peace that "will finally accord Israel the recognition and acceptance that people have yearned for so long and have been long denied." But he did not say the peace that he wants should end the suffering of Palestinians, who for long also, have been subjugated to all kinds of oppression and denial of rights.

Israel should live in security, but he did not say it should meet its obligation under international law to speak against terrorism, but he did not speak of the demolition of homes and the expulsion of people from their homes and homeland and the killing of children and unarmed civilians.

Peace in the Middle East, said the president, should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and "it must involve full normalisation of diplomatic relations, open borders, commerce and tourism... the Israeli people cannot make peace unless they feel secure."

What Mr. Clinton forgot, or chose to forget, to mention, however, is that the Arabs too cannot make peace unless they feel secure and unless they feel their rights are respected and guaranteed. "I believe that the (Arabs) know that the United States has had a sincere relationship of friendship with Israel, but also know that we can be counted upon to keep our word," said Rabin.

The president is only half right on this point. The Arabs do know the extent of the friendship that binds Tel Aviv and Washington together. But they have yet had a good enough reason to know that they can count on the credibility of the United States.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ARABIC PROPAGANDA media have been reporting negotiations among security forces in Israel to confront the intifada in the occupied territories. Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper said in an article Tuesday. These negotiations have indicated the possibility of forcing a siege around the occupied territories, suggesting a plan to increase oppressive measures in the occupied lands, said the paper. These measures are not security measures, said the paper, they are organised terrorist practices. It is pointing out, said Al Ra'i, that news of these measures surfaces at a time when the scheduled date for the ninth of Arab-Israeli talks is nearing and when the possibilities of a U.S. effort to solve the problem of the Palestinian intifada have increased. It is obvious that the real objective of these measures is to increase in terrorist activities to creating more provocative acts in the face of the peace process so that it will not succeed. Al Ra'i said the intended measures also aim at destroying the morale of the Palestinian people. The leaking of the intention of these measures also coincided with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's visit to the United States. The United States realises the role it can play in convincing Mr. Rabin to drop the terrorist programme which he intends to carry out in the occupied territories. Security in the occupied territories, said the paper, cannot be achieved through terrorism. It can be attained through pushing the peace process forward and an Israeli commitment to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and to the principle of land for peace.

THE escalation of the intifada, and the improved tenacity of the resistance movement to Israeli occupation, or an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip have been once again from Israelis, including members of Mr. Rabin's government. Al Dustour Arabic daily said in an editorial. The mere voicing of these calls, especially by members of the Israeli cabinet, is a moral victory for the Palestinian people whose sacrifice have not been short in coming, said the paper in an editorial entitled, "Will Israel withdraw from the Strip?" But as we don't expect these calls to be needed by Israel, we expect that with the continuation of the intifada and the increase of resistance activities, Mr. Rabin will finally learn the lesson and decide to withdraw. The dream of an Israeli withdrawal from any part of the occupied territories has come closer to coming true, said Al Dustour.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Reflections on economic liberalism

THE JORDANIAN economic system has been based on economic freedom which was probably the major force behind whatever economic success Jordan achieved throughout the last three decades. At the eve of the 21st century, it looks crystal clear that economic liberalism is the norm of the day and the trend of the future.

Being poorly endowed with natural resources, Jordan needs economic liberalism more than, or at least as much as, any other country in the region. We believe that the comparative advantage of the Jordanian economy lies in two main areas: the quality of its manpower and its geographic location. Without a liberal economy, Jordan cannot exploit either of them. This and the smallness of the domestic market mean that the Jordanian economy is essentially a service economy.

An open economy and a liberal economic system will allow factors of production to move freely inside Jordan and across borders and thus add more value to the services component of the economy. However, there is no perfect version of economic liberalism in real life. And probably, such a version cannot be tolerated anywhere. It is not only that such liberalism does not, and must not, mean or lead to chaos, but also that the degree of liberalism must be adapted to the ever changing economic circumstances and problems.

Thus, economic liberalism is a very relative concept which varies in shape and content from country to country and from time to time. Consequently, economic liberalism is not rarely misunderstood. The danger lies in the belief that it is a magic cure for all economic ills. It is not difficult to detect the early symptoms of this syndrome in Jordan.

By Pascal B. Karmy

THE WORD "cohabitation" was used by the French in 1986 with respect to the political co-existing, at the head of the French government of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of the Conservative Gaullist Party (RPR).

It may be recalled that in March 1986, the right-wing Conservative parties including the RPR, the Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) and other right-wing parties came to power as they formed the majority in the Assemblée National while President Mitterrand's term of office had almost two more years to run.

It may also be recalled that some frictions occurred between the Socialist President and the Gaullist Chirac. The root cause of the friction arose from the fact that the Fifth Republic's Constitution, as established by General De Gaulle in 1958, had conferred wide powers upon the president who is elected for a seven years' term directly by universal suffrage and not by the National Assembly as was the case in previous republics prior to 1958.

According to De Gaulle's Fifth Republic Constitution, the president appoints the prime minister and executive ministers, presides over the council of ministers, signs laws and decrees, can dissolve the National Assembly,

and so on. One of the incidents of friction which had happened between the president and prime minister Jacques Chirac was when the former refused to sign the decrees referred to him on the privatisation of certain government public establishments after the decree had

been passed by the council of ministers.

The prime minister simply referred the decrees to the National Assembly which, because of its then existing right-wing majority, approved them and consequently the president had to sign them into law.

It is recalled that during Jacques Chirac's premiership in 1986, he tried to give the president a representative protocol role only; but it is doubtful whether he succeeded as the president continues to enjoy wide powers, especially in matters of foreign affairs and national defence. As is well known, De Gaulle, with his towering influence and prestige, had been able to lay down France's policy in foreign affairs and defence and I do not believe that any president will relinquish his role in those two sensitive fields.

Even President Mitterrand, who had harshly criticised De Gaulle's Fifth Republic Constitution before he became president, especially with regard to the strong powers of the president, abided by the constitution during his two terms of office and did not propose any amendment to it.

But with his second term of office nearing its end in less than two years, he has now proposed the abrogation of article 16 of the

constitution. According to this article, the president, after consulting the prime minister, the presidents of the National Assembly and the senate as well as the Conseil Constitutionnel, will take the required measures in case the institutions of the republic, the independence of the nation, the integrity of the nation or the execution of its international obligations are seriously and immediately threatened.

An observer may ask why President Mitterrand is proposing the abrogation of article 16 at this late stage of his second term of office. Is he afraid that, as the recent polls in France indicate, the Conservatives might obtain the majority in the National Assembly during the current month's general election and that a Conservative president might be elected after he finishes his current term of office? Apparently, out of office, President Mitterrand would not like to see a president exercising dictatorial powers even in the specific emergencies described in article 16.

If a Conservative majority dominates the National Assembly as a result of the current general election, we will witness again for some time another "cohabitation" between a Socialist president and a right-wing Conservative prime minister.

Pascal B. Karmy is an Amman-based writer who occasionally contributes to the Jordan Times.

France

Back to 'cohabitation'?

Hold refers to important questions and ratifies treaties among other matters.

De Gaulle's constitution did not apparently foresee the case where the elected president could be of one party and the majority of the National Assembly of a different political party.

Opinions differed on cohabitation:

former President Giscard d'Estaing and then influential minister Charles Balladur expressed the opinion that "cohabitation" must succeed and that there was no reason why it should not and that it was a new experience in French constitutional history.

Other prime ministers, like former prime minister Raymond Barre, a right-wing, stated that the president of the republic should resign once the opposition majority party comes to power.

It may be recalled that President Mitterrand remained in power but had some frictions with his prime minister Jacques Chirac.

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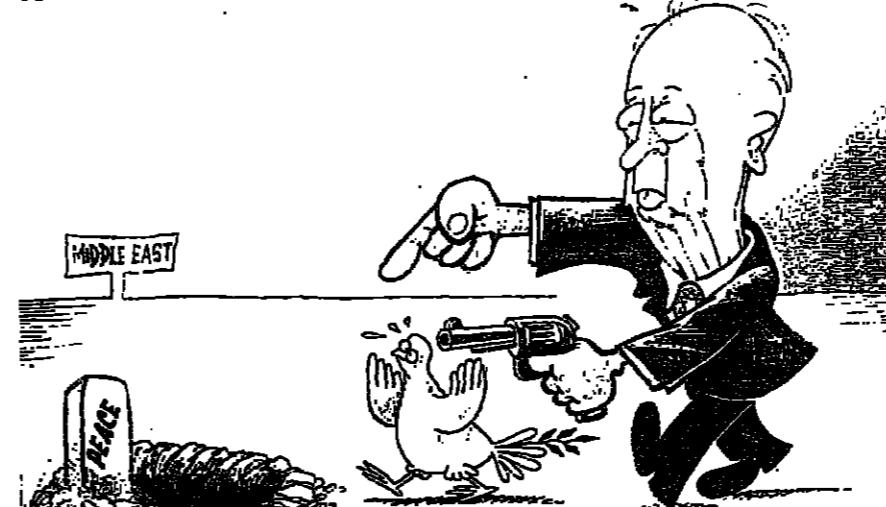
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M. KAHIL



Israel's policies

From sadistic to nihilistic

In the less than three months since the mass deportation of over 400 Palestinians, homes have recently been demolished by anti-tank missiles, to bring arbitrary havoc and damage. Gaza Strip was recently closed off, denying over 30,000 Palestinian day-labourers their only means of income. Such measures serve only to increase the levels of frustration, anxiety and hate, discrediting the peace process and undermining the credibility of the Palestinian negotiators.

In fact, before the intifada, the Israelis indulged themselves in a grand illusion that they were able to achieve Palestinian acquiescence to subjugation, impoverishment and cultural genocide.

The racism which blinded their common sense blocked rational analysis of the inevitable Palestinian reaction to colonisation. Their racial blindness prevented them from seeing the spiralling resistance. This resistance has paralleled Israel's violent repression and has now manifested itself in the current quantitative and qualitative increase in organised armed struggle.

The subsequent inevitable cycle of Israeli violence and Palestinian resistance effectively creates the very conditions necessary to "justify" Israel's more extreme policy aims. The Israeli government intends to forego a peaceful solution and instead impose its own draconian solution to what it perceives as its "Palestinian problem": the imposition of Israeli hegemony over the occupied Palestinian territory. To ensure a Jewish majority, transfer or "ethnic cleansing", "voluntary" or forceful, will be continued to get rid of the indigenous Palestinian people.

The hope that a voice of reason or compromise might emerge from within Israel was shattered. The use of collective punishment

reaction was so strong that the speaker was compelled to walk off the stage.

Another example of a voice in the wilderness is professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, who was and still is an ardent Zionist. He was considered a modern Jewish prophet until he criticised the occupation immediately after 1967, when he predicted the "dilemma of the occupier and the occupied." Mr. Leibowitz, has often spoken out against the "corruption of the occupation," and he characterised the Israeli army as "Judeo-Nazi."

When criticised for this in a recent Israeli television programme, he retorted that the "concentration camps" are in tens of thousands of Palestinians in which thousands of Palestinians are incarcerated. When asked, "where is the holocaust?" Mr. Leibowitz answered, "in your minds." Later, he was forced to forsake the Israel Prize for his scientific achievements due to the vehement denunciation of his nomination by a cross section of Israeli society, including Mr. Rabin who emphasised that he would not attend the ceremony.

The pressure to prevent Israel from deepening this cycle of violence

Yeltsin

Walking a fine line

By Thomas Ginsberg

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin has a

knack for springing back from

political defeat. But the president

will have to be in top form to

continue his market reforms after

the hard line Congress blocked

his play for ultimate power.

Anti-Yeltsin rallies, including

one Sunday of about 200 people

at the U.N. embassy, seem oddly

redundant. The protesters carried

Soviet flags and portraits of Stalin

and Lenin, and shouted "Yeltsin,

shame."

Russia is not on the verge of

returning to ideological Com

munism or the Cold War, nor did

the Congress' victory last week

spell total defeat for the president

and his programme.

But the congress has thrown up

new obstacles and shifted power

toward itself.

Mr. Yeltsin must now appeal to

an apathetic public and win the

support of regional leaders, most

of them entrenched ex-

Communists. Legislators will

challenge every step, including

the acceptance of Western

Soviet-era constitution.

The cabinet already has allo

Features

Clinton pledges full American involvement in peace process

WASHINGTON (USA) — Expressing hope that 1993 will be "a year of peacemaking in the Middle East," President Bill Clinton says the United States "is prepared to be involved all the way" through the Middle East peace process.

At a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday, Mr. Clinton also expressed support for a solution based on governing United Nations resolutions.

Following is the official White House transcript of the Clinton-Rabin news conference:

Clinton: It's a great pleasure for me to welcome Prime Minister Rabin back to Washington. Since we first met here last August, much has changed. But one thing I can say definitely will never change is the unique bond that unites the United States and Israel. It is a bond that goes back to the founding of the state of Israel and beyond, based on shared values and shared ideals.

Israel's democracy is the bedrock on which our relationship stands. It's a shining example for people around the world who are on the front line of the struggle for democracy in their own lands. Our relationship is also based on our common interest in a more stable and peaceful Middle East, a Middle East that will finally accord Israel the recognition and acceptance that its people have yearned for so long and have been too long denied, a Middle East that will know greater democracy for all its peoples.

I believe strongly in the benefit to American interests from strengthened relationships with Israel. Our talks today have been conducted in that context. We have begun a dialogue intended to raise our relationship to a new level of strategic partnership — partners in the pursuit of peace, partners in the pursuit of security.

We focus today on our common objective of turning 1993 into a year of peacemaking in the Middle East. Prime Minister Rabin has made clear to me today that pursuing peace with security is his highest mission. I have pledged that my administration will be active in helping the parties to achieve that end.

At the same time, Prime Minister Rabin and I agree that our common objective should be real, lasting, just and comprehensive peace, based on Resolutions 242 and 338. It must involve full normalisation, diplomatic rela-

tions, open borders, commerce, tourism — the human bonds that are both the fruits and the best guarantee of peace. And Israel's security must be assured. The Israeli people cannot be expected to make peace unless they feel secure, and they cannot be expected to feel secure unless they come to know real peace.

Those like Prime Minister Rabin who genuinely seek peace in the Middle East will find in me and my administration a full partner. But those who seek to subvert the peace process will find zero tolerance here for their deplorable acts of violence and terrorism.

Prime Minister Rabin has told me that he is prepared to take risks for peace. He has told his own people the same thing. I have told him that our role is to help a minimise those risks. We will do that by further reinforcing our commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge.

Another way we can strengthen Israel and the United States is to combine the skills of its people with those of our own.

I am pleased to announce today the establishment of a U.S.-Israel science and technology commission, chaired on the American side by our secretary of commerce, Ron Brown. The commission will enhance cooperation to create technology-based jobs for the 21st century in both Israel and the United States. Our economies will also benefit from a lifting of the Arab boycott. And I hope that this

East will know greater democracy for all its peoples.

Prime Minister Rabin, this year

will be a year of enhanced relations between our countries. It should also be a year of peace in the Middle East, as you have declared. We have an historic responsibility and an historic opportunity. We stand here together today resolved not to let that opportunity pass.

Rabin: President Clinton, in just a few days I will return to Israel, but I know, and will tell everyone in my country, Israel has a friend in the White House. Our home is many miles away, but, Mr. President, we feel very close. We thank you for the hours we spent with you and your team, for the atmosphere of friendship and the openness and the depth of our discussions. The leadership which you have displayed in coping with America's domestic problems is inspiring and stands out like a beacon in the night.

Today we were happy to learn that at the same time you are also willing to invest efforts in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. In this effort, Mr. President, you will find us to be full partners. You are aware that no one wants peace more than us, and that there is no country more resolved to defend itself when necessary. We are veterans of many wars. And today we say, no more blood and tears. We now wish to experience lasting and meaningful peace.

In our talks today, I presented to you Israel's approach to the peacemaking, and we are willing to take upon ourselves risks for peace. But we are determined to protect our security.

Peace has many enemies. Terror is used by the enemies of peace in (an) effort to undermine it. And we will combat it while we continue to seek a solution that will lead to peace.

Since the formation of my government, we have invested efforts in trying to advance towards peace in the framework of the Madrid formula. We introduced new ideas in the negotiation tracks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians. Some progress has been made, but more is needed in order to come to agreement. We are ready for compromise, but compromises cannot be one-sided. We call on our partners, the Arab states, the Palestinians from the territories, to seize the moment to return to the negotiating table so that we can use this historic opportunity. We call upon them to respond openly and willingly to our positions. Our children and grandchildren in Jerusalem, and the Arab children and grandchildren in Damascus, Beirut, Amman and elsewhere in the Arab World will not forgive us if we all fail to act now.

We have heard today with satisfaction, Mr. President, your concept of the role of the full partner as an intermediary. We shall continue our direct talks with our Arab neighbours. But in order to expedite the dialogue between the parties, we welcome your good offices and hope to rely on your role as facilitator.

President Clinton, we are deeply indebted to you and to your predecessors who helped us in hours of need. We do appreciate and greatly value the decision to maintain the current level of aid to Israel. This decision will help us to integrate new immigr-

ents into our society and to bear the heavy burden of our security.

You know, president, (sic) that we will not be able to win the battle for peace without a qualitative edge. Therefore, I wish to thank you and your colleagues on behalf of the Israeli soldiers and their parents and the citizens of Israel for your decision to help to maintain that edge.

Moreover, such a qualitative edge enables the Israeli Defence Forces to contribute to the overall effort to maintain stability in our stormy region. The decision today to raise the level of strategic dialogue between our two countries will open new doors of opportunity. The fact that the next months we will renew the memorandum of agreement between us for five more years, and that we do it as a matter of course is a proof of the kind of mutually beneficial relationships that we enjoy. The formation of new high-level forum for strategic dialogue will further upgrade this relationship.

We will also have a turn in the near future with much urgency to address the struggle against various kinds of fanaticism, which give birth to murderous terror, the kind that recently landed even on these shores. We must institutionalise our dialogue and include all free countries in consultations on the ways to curb the threatening extremism.

We attach much importance to the decision made today to create the high-level joint commission for the development of projects of science and technology. The investment in research and industrial applications in Israel and in America will explore new frontiers of knowledge. And they are a telling example of how our two countries can mutually benefit from this cooperation.

President Clinton, thank you for your invitation and reception, for the warmth on a winter day, and for your goodwill. I came from Jerusalem, the city of the prophets. I return to Jerusalem, the city that witnessed so many wars and wants so dearly peace, because she knows that in war, there are no winners, and in peace, no losers.

Q: Do you support the transitional policy of self-determination for the people on the West Bank and Gaza who have been living for years under military occupation? Mr. Prime Minister, do you think that during your regime there will be any measure of self-rule for the Palestinians while you are...

Mr. Clinton: No, we did not discuss that. As far as I'm concerned, the secretary of state and

the prime minister reached an agreement on that. And I think that is the framework within which we are proceeding.

Q: Mr. President, the last peace agreement between an Arab nation and Israel was, as you know — in that case, the president kept a very personal part as an intermediary. To what extent are you willing to give that edge?

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JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1993

the only thing that would make peace possible was the assurance of security that would come to the parties afterward.

I believe that the other nations involved know that the United States has had an historic relationship of friendship with Israel, but also know that we can be counted upon to keep our word and to do what we can to support the security of all the parties if an agreement can be reached.

Do you want to answer that?

Mr. Clinton: I can speak only as an Israeli, and in the name of Israel. I believe that the government that I serve as prime minister is the first government that accepted the principle of the resolutions 242 and 338 as applicable to the achievement of peace. No government in the past did so — which shows that we understand that in peace, compromises have to be made by both sides.

Q: Mr. President, Prime Minister Clinton today spoke about raising the level of strategic dialogue: you spoke about strategic dialogue. I was wondering if you could elaborate what that means more, and does this mean greater coordination between the two countries in terms of what approaches to take to peace, and then bringing that to the table?

Mr. Clinton: The answer to your question, from my point of view, is that the United States believes that the full peace process should resume. We hope very much that the Palestinians will come to the table. We would like to see all the bilaterals go forward. But if the parties could reach an agreement consistent with security interests and the governing U.N. resolution. But the important thing is that everything we say or do today sends a clear message, particularly to the other parties in the Middle East, that the time has come to negotiate peace. And the United States is prepared to be involved all the way through the process.

Q: — both of you have addressed the question of bilateral arrangements between Israel and Syria. It seems that the prime minister in recent statements has backed away from some earlier statements that Israel would never go down from the Golan Heights. Is there a change? Would Israel be prepared to accept a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for complete peace with Syria, along the lines of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement? And would the United States welcome that kind of separate Israeli-Syrian agreement?

Mr. Clinton: Well, first, we are serious in our negotiations with every one of the Arab partners

to find a way to move forward. We know that we have to pay greater attention to missile defences; we know that we have to pay greater attention to the possibility of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; we know that in order for any agreement in the Middle East to have lasting impact, there will be significant security implications flowing out of any kind of arrangements which might be made. And we just want to make sure that beginning now we give those matters the most careful attention at the appropriate level.

This will not supplant anything that is now being done. We're very well satisfied with the work being done by our people now. But these three things, it seems to us, will shape a lot of our deliberations for a decade to come.

Israeli soldiers kill 2

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians and the Arabs and the terrorists to defeat us," he told Israel Radio.

The

clashes

in Khan Younis began after a homemade bomb was thrown at troops as residents emerged from a curfew imposed last Friday, the army said. No soldiers were injured.

Fighting between stone-throwing Palestinians and soldiers spread throughout the

occupied territories since Dec. 19, when six Palestinians were killed and 30 wounded in Khan Younis in the aftermath of Israel's expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has risen sharply since the expulsion of 415 Palestinians. In that period Israelis have killed at least 58 Palestinians and Palestinians have killed at least 10 Israelis.

Palestinians and human rights groups, in turn, say indiscriminate shooting by soldiers has caused a sharp rise in the number of Palestinian deaths.

Rabin cuts short visit to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

security, and this can be achieved by compromises on both sides."

"Israel's security must be assured," Mr. Clinton said at a joint news conference with Mr. Rabin in the East Room. "The Israeli people cannot be expected to make peace unless they feel secure."

A White House official suggested U.S. assistance could increase from the \$3 billion level if Israel reached peace with its neighbours.

The official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said: "If there is indeed a breakthrough to peace in the region, I think that will transform the environment, and there's a sense which the United States would then be prepared to help compensate Israel for the risks it would take to make peace."

A diplomatic source, however, said Mr. Clinton made no explicit promises to Mr. Rabin for any boost in aid.

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Mr. Clinton said Mr. Rabin was prepared to take risks

Capriati ousted, Stich escapes, Chang upset

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) American teen Jennifer Capriati wiped away tears in her press conference after an early 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 third-round loss to Australian Judith Wiesner Monday at the \$3 million Lipton Championships.

Ninth-seeded Michael Stich came close to being the next upset victim but escaped with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 decision over 73rd-ranked Frenchman Rodolphe Gilbert.

Earlier, defending champion Michael Chang, the seventh seed, was stunned by South African Marco Ondruska 7-5, 6-1 in the second round. The seventh-ranked Chang wilted against the 48th-ranked Ondruska's powerful groundstrokes and finely-tuned volleys.

Other top seeds posted easy victories.

In men's second-round action, top-seeded Jim Courier of the United States won a 6-2, 6-2 decision over Byron Black of Zimbabwe. Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden defeated Mexican Leonardo Lavalle 6-4, 6-3.

In women's third-round play, second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain beat American Ann Grossman 6-0, 6-2. Third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina took a 6-2, 7-5 victory over South African Dinky Van Rensburg.

The sixth-ranked Capriati suffered a frustrating and inexplicable loss.

"I can't believe I lost," said Capriati, 16. "I had high expectations. I'd say I'm very disappointed. I'm working hard and felt good coming to this tournament."

The 25th-ranked Wiesner pounded shots over and Capriati answered the assault just as her opponent hoped — with defensive attempts to keep the ball in play and frequent errors.

"She played well and got everything back," said Capriati, who is 2-2 against Wiesner in career meetings. "She didn't



A disappointed Jennifer Capriati

miss. I was the one missing. I could've been more aggressive on almost every shot."

"I had beaten her before, so I knew I could do it," said Wiesner, surprised by Gilbert's excellent serving. Stich, the ace king, had 11 in the three sets. Gilbert came close with nine.

After losing the first set, Stich fell behind 2-0 in the second set. But he kept trying and broke even in the sixth game.

He scored the remaining two service breaks in the match — in the eighth game of the second set and the fifth game of the final set.

"I was very cold out there and found it tough to get into the match," said Stich. "He played very well and served really big. Once I broke him, I got into the match."

Australia names Davis Cup team

SYDNEY (R) — Under-prepared England are likely to face the precocious talent of African champions Ghana in the semifinals of the World Youth Soccer Championship Wednesday without two of their key players.

Tottenham Hotspur teenager Nick Barmby is still troubled by sore shins and a knee problem while Chelsea defender Andy Myers is in doubt with bruised toes.

Neither player joined the squad during an 80-minute workout Tuesday.

"At this stage you'd have to say Barmby was very doubtful and Myers doubtful," said England manager David Burnside.

The cast-iron England defence, which has only conceded one goal in four games and has been instrumental in taking them to the semifinal, relies heavily on Myers whose speed would be sorely missed against the fast and tricky Ghanians.

Oldham Athletic defender Marvin Harrison is to replace Myers while Leicester City's Jason Joachim will deputise for Barmby.

England will go into the match as underdogs against a Ghana side who easily despatched Russia 3-0 in the quarter-finals.

"Ghana are a well-organised team of outstanding individuals," Burnside said, ruling the fact that

He justified his inclusion in the team at the \$3 million Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne this week with wins over American team member David Wheaton and Spain's Emilio Sanchez in the first two rounds.

The Americans, represented in the singles by Wheaton and Brad Gilbert and backed by the leading doubles team of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg, arrive in Melbourne at the weekend.

Australian captain Neale Fraser said his team had a good chance against a depleted United States.

"I'm quietly confident, we will certainly be giving it everything we have got," he said in a news release.

Woodforde, the highest-ranked Australian at 22, also tuned up for the cup tie with a second round 6-1, 6-3 victory at Key Biscayne over Switzerland's Claudio Mezzadri.

The top-seeded United States named their team after leading players, world number one Jim Courier, Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Pete Sampras, refused to play.

Australia will be returning to the scene of their last Davis Cup triumph where it defeated highly-rated Sweden in 1986, thanks mainly to Pat Cash, who has been ruled out of this rubber by injury.

World Youth Soccer Championship

England face semifinal injury problems

SYDNEY (R) — Under-prepared England are likely to face the precocious talent of African champions Ghana in the semifinals of the World Youth Soccer Championship Wednesday without two of their key players.

In contrast, Ghana will field many of the players who won the Under-17 World Cup two years ago and who have in teenage Anderlecht star Nii Lamptey one of the most gifted players in world soccer.

In the second semifinal in Melbourne, Brazil, bidding from a record third tournament win, are favourites to beat hosts Australia with their coach Julio Leal saying his side has peaked at the right time.

"We don't have to improve too much because we are playing very well at the moment," said Leal, whose side easily whipped the United States 3-0 in the quarter-finals.

"We have got better with every game and technically we have organised ourselves very well."

But the Australians, who reached the semifinals in 1991, boast a creditable record against Brazil with one win and three draws in six games during the last four months.

Australian coach Les Scheinflug said the Brazilians were beatable and claimed his players would not be intimidated by the opposition's lofty reputation.

"I saw the Americans get scared, frightened against them," Scheinflug said. "They let them do whatever they wanted to."

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: A very good morning to establish the good neighbour policy where you are living and to meet others that you are one who enjoys entertainment and recreation that involve your creative skills.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can enjoy romantic moments in the morning with your attachment this day before you go out with some new acquaintances who are well informed in your strong views.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to a new arrangement about a joint venture with an expert partner and then you will be able to carry it through to a successful conclusion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your schedule for the coming days can be well arranged during the morning and then those involved know to have greatest operative skill.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get set on the various good times you anticipate and then you can add to oncoming pleasures by adding some factors not considered before this.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have experienced pal who will show you how to get the things you want the most after which you put in motion a quiet plan to gain them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Let eone of influence know how that person can further your worldly ambitions after which get your friends and acquaintances to lend a willing hand.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You have some very good ideas for your own personal growth and

development and later you can take them to a bigwig to get outside backing you require.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look at your assets and see what you can do to increase their value and appearance this morning while tonight go after new idealistic courses for getting ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Personal progress towards material goods is possible after breakfast so do into possible courses, then get into the financial requirements.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can think out a campaign to gain your secret longings after which consider the personal part you will play in this drama and make headway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get set on the various good times you anticipate and then you can add to oncoming pleasures by adding some factors not considered before this.

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CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get set on the various good times you anticipate and then you can add to oncoming pleasures by adding some factors not considered before this.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out, see and be with interesting persons and places in the morning and enhance your knowledge, understand; then be happy with your home pleasures.

Atlanta Olympic preparations on course

ATLANTA (R) — Atlanta was still shivering on Monday in the wake of savage weekend blizzards but there was apparently not a storm cloud in sight on the Olympic front.

After the alarms and excursions over negotiations for the main stadium and the on-off saga of golf's place in the 1996 Atlanta Games, all was sweetness and light when the organising committee delivered a green report to the IOC Executive Board.

The International Olympic Committee expressed fears last week that protracted negotiations to secure the land for the main stadium threatened to put the games construction programme behind schedule.

But Atlanta Games boss Billy Payne brought a thaw to the conference table, if not the weather, by stressing that construction was still bang on schedule.

It's the best job they've done," IOC Vice President Kieran Gospod said of the progress report.

The original plan was saved at the 11th hour by a compromise deal which reduced the post-games maintenance costs to local taxpayers and ensured more black representation on the Olympic organising committee.

The near-stalemate was characterised Monday as no more than "healthy debate" by Payne, who told a news conference:

"In a sense, we said to the executive board that they should not interpret the healthy debate we had as an indication that we are getting behind schedule, because it's a matter of time."

Payne's controversial attempts to include gold in the centenary Olympics founded in January.

largely because of membership restrictions at the Augustana National Club, the proposed venue, which has only one black member and no women.

Asked whether golf had been mentioned in Monday's discussions, Gospod said: "Golf is history now, a dead issue."

Earlier in the day the executive board received a delegation from Milan which last week withdrew as a candidate for the 2000 olympics.

Milan pulled out because of the storm of political corruption sweeping Italy but bid officials who told a news conference:

"In a sense, we said to the executive board that they should not interpret the healthy debate we had as an indication that we are getting behind schedule, because it's a matter of time."

Samaran in turn thanked Milan for the work it had done on the 2000 bid and urged the city to apply again for 2004.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



TCHE

ANDY WAS GOING TO GET MARRIED, DEAR, BUT HE FINALLY MADE IT

WHAT HAPPENED?

HE DECIDED HE JUST COULDN'T GET DOWN AFTER SHE TOLD HIM HOW MUCH SHE SPENT ON BOOZE FOR THE RECEPTION

ANDY CAPP

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ANDY CAPP

BBME '92 profits soar

Emirates borrows \$100 m to fund Airbus deal

DUBAI (R) — Dubai-owned Emirates Airlines has negotiated a \$100 million loan with a consortium of five European banks to pay for two Airbus jetliners to be delivered this year, a company spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The 10-year deal at a fixed annual rate of 7.58 per cent was signed with British banks Morgan Grenfell International Ltd and Barclays Bank PLC, France Banque Indosuez, and German banks Deutsche Girozentrale and Kre ditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau Monday.

A company statement said the aircraft, an A310-300 and an A300-600R, would be delivered in April and November this year to complete Emirates' Airbus fleet of 13.

The spokeswoman said Indosuez will provide \$30 million,

Morgan \$20 million, Barclays \$10 million and the two German banks \$40 million between them.

Industry sources said the loan covered the whole cost of the two aircraft.

"For this moment, this agreement completes financing arrangements for all Emirates contracted deliveries of Airbus aircraft," the company statement said.

Emirates is owned by the government of Dubai and was set up in 1985 to serve a regional market long dominated by Gulf Air, the airline jointly owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE state of Abu Dhabi.

The company would not put a value on the total in loans it has so far obtained to complete its Airbus fleet.

It said plans for financing a new generation of Boeing 777s aircraft were "well advanced." It did not elaborate.

Boeing Company of the United States in 1992 won a \$2 billion contract to supply Emirates with up to 14 Boeing 777 planes.

The total value included orders for seven Boeing 777s to be delivered between 1996 and 1997, options for seven more and 36 Rolls-Royce RB211 Trent 800 engines.

Germans march for jobs, wages

LEIPZIG (R) — More than 22,000 workers demonstrated in eastern Germany Monday against a broken wage agreement and soaring unemployment, unions said.

Over 20,000 took to the streets in Leipzig under the motto "that's enough." It was the first demonstration here since regular Monday rallies in late 1989 and early 1990 to bring down communist rule and speed unification.

In Dresden, about 2,000 took to the streets and hundreds more rallied in the eastern town of Frankfurt on the Oder, police said.

Carrying banners reading "we have the right to work," the Leipzig protesters voiced distress at the de-industrialisation of eastern Germany and demanded employers uphold a wage deal for a 26 per cent pay rise due on April 1.

Strike over wages hits southern Yemen

ADEN (R) — A general strike paralysed southern Yemen Tuesday as angry workers demonstrated in Aden to protest the government's failure to pay public employees for the past three months.

Residents said no incidents were reported as all public and private businesses were shut for the day, except for the airport, hospitals and petrol stations.

Office workers gathered outside their places or work in response of the one-day strike call by angry labour unions who accuse the central government in Sanaa of neglecting the southern provinces of the country was united three years ago.

The new crisis comes as the government prepares for general elections in April, the first since the conservative north and radical-ruled south Yemen merged in 1990.

Government employees in south Yemen, including the armed forces, police and teachers, say they have not been

paid for three months because the Central Bank of Yemen ran out of banknotes in a cash economy where the banking system is underdeveloped.

Banking sources and diplomats said the crisis was partly caused by a government decision to withdraw old notes before it received new ones valued at 100 billion riyals (\$8.33 billion).

Bankers said printing errors were discovered in one batch of the new notes and they had been returned abroad for reprinting. Fresh notes were expected next week, they added.

The Central Bank of Yemen started to circulate new banknotes with a denomination of 50

riyals (just over \$1 on the free market) in February.

The sources said that the central bank in Sanaa has in the last few days sent about 40 million riyals (\$4.8 million) to its cash-strapped branch in Aden to help pay public sector wages.

A labour union statement said Monday the crisis was partly due to the government's policy of centralising decisions in the authorities.

It urged the government to take quick measures "to curb the insane rise in prices, solve the public sector problem by providing cash to pay public sector employees, including the armed forces and police."

Troubled New York Post publishes weeping, snarling edition

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Post, the city's oldest newspaper, graphically shed a tear for itself Tuesday and asked readers for help against a takeover bid.

On the front page of what it said could be one of its final editions, the newspaper which survived daily street warfare since 1801 published a picture of founder Alexander Hamilton, with a single tear running down his face.

Inside, in an unprecedented eleventh-hour revolt the troubled daily asked readers for help: "Our paper is being taken over by a man we believe will destroy the Post, a part of this great city for 192 years."

The desperate editorial referred to the paper's new prospective owner, New York real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld.

A bankruptcy judge last Friday ruled that Mr. Hirschfeld could buy the Post, the nation's longest continuously published newspaper.

On Monday, the paper filed for bankruptcy while its top editors and journalists fought a tug of war with their prospective boss.

Seventy-one reporters and editors were fired, although later in the day all but one of the firings were rescinded.

In its urgent appeal Tuesday, the newspaper referred to the 73-year-old Hirschfeld as a "nut" and a "slob" and published a 1990 photograph of him spitting at a Miami reporter who had written critically about him.

"Who is this nut?" the newspaper said in a headline above the photograph of the exasperating Hirschfeld.

"We believe Mr. Hirschfeld's basic ignorance of the way our business operates — and his refusal to educate himself — means the Post will permanently cease publication in days," the newspaper said.

At the Post newsroom, staffers said they were praying for a miracle.

Tom Bonfiglio, an editorial assistant, said there had been no reaction from Mr. Hirschfeld to the unprecedented printed assault.

"Not a word from the guy. We hope Abe will just drop it, get rid of it. We're really praying," said Mr. Bonfiglio.

Several state figures, including Governor Mario Cuomo, expressed an interest in looking for investors to prevent Mr. Hirschfeld from taking over the tabloid.

The newspaper said Tuesday that many important advertisers were ready to pull out if the sale to Mr. Hirschfeld went through and appealed to readers to telephone the real estate tycoon and ask him to pass on ownership to "someone who will allow it to survive."

Inside, the Post's regular columnists and journalists devoted page after page to attacks on Mr. Hirschfeld and his choice for editor-in-chief, Bill Tatum.

Mr. Tatum is the editor and part owner of the Amsterdam News, the city's biggest and oldest black weekly.

Post gossip columns were filled with tart and dated items on both men.

Former New York mayor Ed Koch announced he was quitting as a columnist. He became the target of weekly criticism by Mr. Tatum for much of his tenure as mayor.

"I think they are destroying what was once a great newspaper. It will no longer be the Post I wrote for," said Mr. Koch.

Columnist Cindy Adams said the newspaper was "going down the toilet," along with much else that had been established by West Indian-born Hamilton, one of the country's founding fathers, in New York.

And veteran writer Jack Newfield, comparing the tumult to World War II-era Poland, said it was like "The Marx brothers version of the Hitler-Stalin pact."

Some articles accused Mr. Tatum, whose wife is white, of using the Amsterdam News to encourage anti-Semitism and anti-white feeling among the city's blacks.

Mr. Hirschfeld in a radio interview Monday hinted he might not want to be the owner, saying, "all I know and I hope is Governor Cuomo can come here with enough money and buy it."

Mr. Hirschfeld last week received permission to buy the Post after a bankruptcy judge ruled that another suitor, Steven Hoffenberg, could not buy the paper because a fraud case brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission prevented him from spending money on the newspaper.

Known for its abrasive style and punning headlines, the Post has been fighting for survival since earlier this year, when the creditors of its current owner, Peter Kalikow, refused to loan him any more money.

China announces big budget deficit for '93

BEIJING (R) — China announced a higher-than-forecast budget deficit for last year and another huge shortfall this year — the price of propping up loss-making industry and financing runaway investment.

In his budget speech to parliament Tuesday, Liu Zhongli said the 1992 deficit was 2.96 billion yuan (\$519 million) over target at 23.74 billion yuan (\$4.16 billion).

This year's deficit will fall to 20.5 billion yuan (\$3.59 billion), he said, but nevertheless China faces "great financial difficulties."

The deficits would be much higher under certain international calculations if proceeds of foreign borrowing and domestic debt were added. That would swell this year's figure by 63.9 billion yuan (\$11.2 billion).

China's central finances have been crippled because tax revenues have failed to keep pace with an explosive increase in spending on capital construction projects, which powered economic growth last year of 12.8 per cent.

Mr. Liu offered some hope for the bandwagon of economic reform, local governments with big ambitions have launched an investment binge regardless of returns.

At the same time, Beijing has been impoverished by the crumbling of state industry, which once accounted for almost all industrial production but now accounts for 55 per cent. Central government relies on state enterprises for about 70 per cent of its revenue.

"Certain departments and

localities did too many things and launched too many projects without taking into consideration their ability and financial capacity," Mr. Liu said.

He complained of an overstuffed bureaucracy, local authorities handing out too many tax breaks to industry and lax economic management that led to "extravagance and waste."

Diplomats said Mr. Liu's speech, while conceding certain problems, still left the impression the government was not too concerned about its fiscal straits.

"There's precious little in the way of recognising the real scope of the problem. They still seem to be saying everything is wonderful," said one Western envoy.

Total revenues for 1993 are set at 452.23 billion yuan (\$79.33 billion), up eight per cent over 1992. Expenditure is 472.737 billion yuan (\$82.93 billion), a rise of 6.8 per cent.

Domestic bond issues this year will amount to 37 billion yuan (\$6.49 billion), with foreign debt of 26.9 billion (\$4.71 billion).

Mr. Liu offered some hope for collapsing state industry, which once accounted for almost all industrial production but now accounts for 55 per cent. Central government relies on state enterprises for about 70 per cent of its revenue.

There was an overall reduction of 4.2 percentage points in the losses of government enterprises in 1992, he said.

Total industrial subsidies this year are forecast at 38.85 billion yuan (\$6.6 billion) compared with 44.57 billion (\$7.8 billion) last year.

Renault '92 profit surges after strong car sales

PARIS (R) — French state-controlled car and truck firm Renault has said that its best car sales for nine years drove its net profit up 84 per cent to 5.68 billion francs (\$1.00 billion) in 1992.

But Louis Schweizer, chairman of Regie Nationale des Usines Renault, struck a note of caution at a news conference to present the company's results, predicting a drop in profit this year.

"With a market that will decline by nine to 10 per cent I think it would be utterly unreasonable to think of an increase," he said. "I think our profits will fall in 1993."

Despite his gloom about 1993, Mr. Schweizer said he hoped that Renault would limit the drop in car sales to about half the nine to 10 per cent drop expected in the overall European market.

"In our forecasts, we hope to be able to make up for about half

of the (overall market) decline by increasing our share with new products," he said.

Renault's operating profit jumped by 70 per cent from 1991 to 7.92 billion francs (\$1.40 billion) on sales that were eight per cent higher at 179.45 billion francs (\$31.70 billion).

The result came despite a 1.38 billion franc (\$244 million) loss from its holdings in Sweden's Volvo A.B., a deficit at its car and truck unit Renault Vehicles Industriels (RVI) and a 600 million franc (\$106 million) loss from the fall in value of the British pound and Italian lira.

In 1991 Volvo's losses cost Renault just 12 million francs (\$2.1 million). But Mr. Schweizer said there were signs of recovery at its Swedish partner.

Car sales, which account for 83.6 per cent of Renault's turnover rose to 150 billion francs (\$26.5 billion) from 133.9 billion (\$23.6 billion) in 1991.

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China to boost defence budget

PEKING (R) — China will boost its defence spending by 12.4 per cent in 1993, the fourth year in a row the Communist Party has given a hefty raise to the troops that crushed pro-democracy unrest in 1989.

The increase, announced by Finance Minister Liu Zhongli in parliament Tuesday, compares with a rise of 9.8 per cent for education and 10.8 per cent for science and technology.

Mr. Liu said the national defence budget would rise to 42.5 billion yuan (\$7.5 billion), up from the 37.8 billion yuan (\$6.6 billion) spent last year.

Defence spending ran 2.1 per cent over budget last year, he said.

The defence budget does not count 44.45 billion (\$7.8 billion) allocated for administrative expenses "for building up the national strength."

There were no details as to what that money will be used for.

China will dissolve seven of its ministries and establish six new ministries part of its programme of government restructuring, Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday.

Under the plan submitted to parliament Tuesday, the following seven ministries will be abolished: Ministry of Energy Resources, Ministry of Machinery and Electronics Industry, Ministry of Aerospace Industry, Ministry of Light Industry, Ministry of Textile Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Materials and Equipment.

The new ministries and a commission with ministerial rank will be: State Economic and Trade Commission, Ministry of Power Industry, Ministry of Coal Industry, Ministry of Machine-Building Industry, Ministry of Electronics Industry and Ministry of Internal Trade.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade will change its name to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Xinhua said.

Meanwhile, deputies to China's parliament asked Peking Tuesday to do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition of power in Hong Kong because of the row with London over plans for the British colony.

While the signed statement by 32 deputies from Hong Kong and Macau printed in the People's Daily did not make clear what those measures should be, its publication was clearly intended to rebuff British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who said London remained ready for talks.

Peking is furious over Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's plans for more democracy in the territory ahead of its return to Chinese rule in 1997.

"We...strongly denounce Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten for his grave acts of repeatedly trampling on Hong Kong's popular will, sabotaging Sino-British cooperation, and disrupting a smooth transfer of power and a smooth transition in Hong Kong," the deputies' statement said.

"We propose that the Chinese government take all necessary contingency measures and make proper preparation to ensure the smooth transfer of power...in Hong Kong."

The deputies said they fully supported Premier Li Peng's warning Monday that Britain would have to bear all responsibility for the serious consequences resulting from the row with London over the democracy plans.

Mr. Patten responded defiantly Tuesday to the blistering attack from Mr. Li, saying debate on the territory's future would go on however strident the blasts from Peking.

Speaking after a meeting of the colonial cabinet, the Executive Council, Mr. Patten did not name names. But he made clear he was replying to Mr. Li, who Monday described Mr. Patten's democratic reforms as a perfidious betrayal of Sino-British agreements.

"I don't intend to use the sort of language which has very often been used about Hong Kong by others," he told reporters when asked to react to Mr. Li's speech at China's parliament.

But he added: "As has been the case consistently for the last few months, whatever the words used about Hong Kong and the Hong Kong governor, we'll continue to discuss the future of Hong Kong positively and constructively."

Bosnian Serbs promise U.N. convoys can go in

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic assured the U.N.'s top official for refugees Tuesday that blocked relief convoys would be allowed in to trapped Muslim towns in Bosnia, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

She said Mr. Karadzic was telephoned Tuesday by U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata from Geneva and in the presence of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, had promised to let in a number of convoys that are currently stalled at the border.

UNHCR spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said Mr. Karadzic had also given assurances that aid workers would be let in to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica, and that the sick and wounded could be evacuated including combatants, provided they surrendered their arms.

Earlier the UNHCR had said it would not allow a relief convoy to proceed to Srebrenica in east Bosnia after Bosnian Serbs had refused to allow it to have a U.N. military escort or radio communications.

Other U.N. convoys to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla in northern Bosnia, both under Serb siege for 11 months, were also stalled at the border waiting for clearance from Bosnian Serbs.

Mr. Karadzic, who said Monday that no U.N. military escorts would be allowed on Serb-held territory in Bosnia, was due to fly to New York later Tuesday for

peace talks with Muslim and Croat leaders.

Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic was also flying to New York after being seen off on his way to Sarajevo Airport by a small crowd chanting "Bosnia, Bosnia."

Mr. Sachs said U.N. Commander General Philippe Morillon, who has set up temporary headquarters in Srebrenica in a dramatic bid to press the Serbs to allow in aid, was due to have more talks later Tuesday with deputy Bosnian Serb army commander General Manojlo Miljanovic.

Gen. Miljanovic gave provisional approval Monday for the UNHCR convoy of food and medicine for Srebrenica, packed with refugees from fallen Muslim towns, many sleeping rough, after talks with Gen. Morillon.

In Srebrenica itself the situation was reported to be deteriorating as refugees from fallen Muslim settlements in east Bosnia continued to flood in, many of them wounded.

UNHCR official Larry Hollingworth told his colleagues over a ham radio link from Srebrenica that at least 600 refugees were sleeping rough on the ground at night.

He told UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler there were children in the streets, babies in their mother's arms and refugees wandering around in the cold without coats.

"He described the scene as Dickensian," Mr. Kessler said,

U.N. had 45 days warning of attack on Vietnamese

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Ethnic Vietnamese villagers had told U.N. peacekeepers of threats by Khmer Rouge guerrillas 45 days before the guerrillas slaughtered 33 villagers, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the peacekeepers responded by patrolling the village, but not enough to secure the area.

Dennis McNamara, head of the peacekeeping mission's human rights unit, said peacekeepers must begin day and night patrols of threatened areas to deter attackers.

"These attacks cannot be allowed to continue," Mr. McNamara said. "There have to be some very serious efforts made by us all."

Last Wednesday night, 10 men raided the village of houseboats in Siem Reap province in the northwest and fatally shot 33 ethnic Vietnamese, 14 of them children. Another 24 people were injured. It was the bloodiest attack on civilians since the U.N. mission began a year ago.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said Tuesday that two Cambodians identified by witness as Khmer Rouge guerrillas also were killed.

Apparently, they were accidentally shot by fellow guerrillas during the attack.

U.N. officials previously had given slightly different accounts of the casualties.

Boat owners have told U.N. investigators that Khmer Rouge guerrillas forced them at gunpoint to take the guerrillas to the village for the attack.

Witnesses said some of the attackers wore Khmer Rouge uniforms.

Lawyers willing to plea-bargain in L.A. riot beating case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors and lawyers representing three men charged with the videotaped beating of a white truck driver during last spring's riots said Monday they are willing to formally discuss plea-bargains.

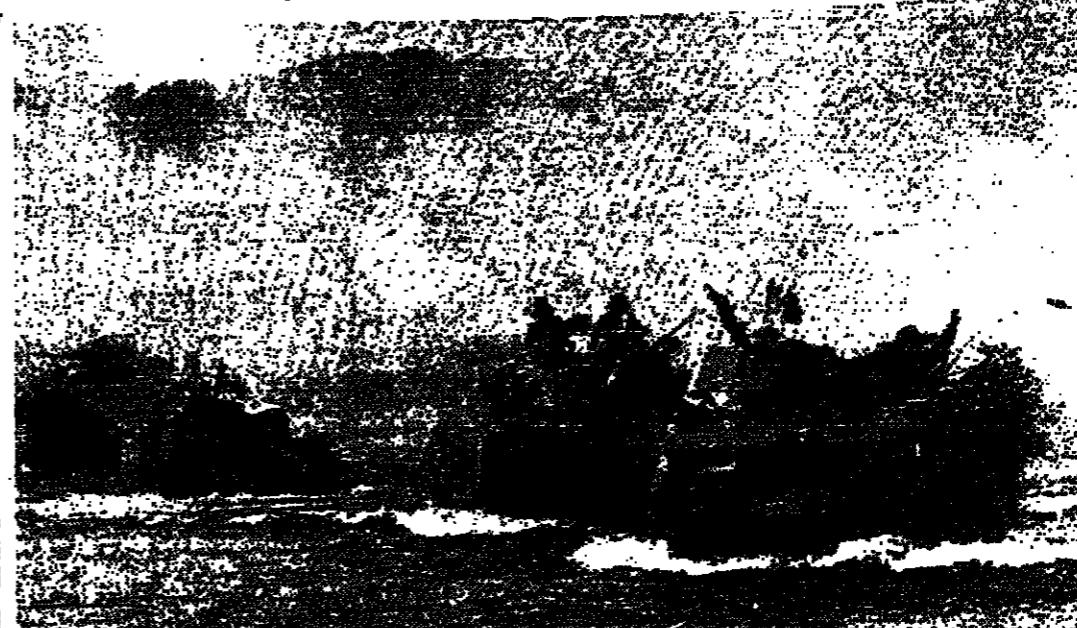
Antoine Miller, Damion Williams and Henry Watson were charged with attempted premeditated murder in the April 29 attack on Reginald Beatty.

James Gillen, Mr. Miller's attorney, said outside court he might consider a deal involving an assault charge and a penalty of time already served in jail. The current charges carry life sentences.

Attorneys for the other two and prosecutors also said they were willing to discuss plea-bargains.

"The people have made no offer in this case," said Deputy District Attorney Janet Moore. "However, we remain open to any potential offers from the defendants and we are not closed to any settlement."

Mr. Beatty was pulled from his rig and beaten by several men



South Korean army tanks cross Namhan River during the ongoing Team Spirit joint U.S.-S. Korean military exercises (AFP photo)

N. Korea rejects nuclear arms U-turn

TOKYO (R) — A defiant North Korea, suspected of covertly making nuclear weapons, has poured scorn on those who urge it not to quit a nuclear control pact and has threatened to react if Washington applies new pressure.

Food is being parachuted into the area by U.S. aircraft, but there is no distribution system and only the strongest prevail in the scramble to find the aid package.

Refugees are also forced to make a form of bread out of the cores of corn cobs mixed with buds from tree branches and berries. This often caused severe pain or even death.

Meanwhile Prince Charles arrived in this Adriatic port Tuesday to visit British troops serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia and in Croatian areas of embattled Bosnia.

Communist North Korea's announcement Friday that it would leave the NPT heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang had already put its forces and civilian population on a "semi-war" footing in the face of joint U.S.-South Korean military manoeuvres below the border.

Choe Tae-Bok, secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee, said calls by the United States and its allies for North Korea to go back on its NPT decision were ridiculous.

If the United States puts new pressure on us under the pretext of (the NPT pullout), ignoring our warnings, we will take a corresponding countermeasure, no matter what pressure it may be," Mr. Choe said in a statement issued by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"The very ones who compelled us to withdraw from NPT by

making it impossible for us to fulfil our obligations under the treaty are now urging us to 're-consider' and 'revoke' the decision," he said.

"This does not deserve even a passing note either from the logical or practical point of view.

South Korea said Tuesday it was considering asking the United States to leave behind some of the military forces now holding exercises in the South, a move certain to infuriate the leadership of the North.

"If it becomes necessary, (we are) seriously considering keeping on some of the U.S. forces currently taking part in the Team Spirit exercise," a Seoul Defence Ministry statement said.

The statement did not elaborate on South Korea's latest move to counter the growing of a defiant North Korea, which last week declared a state of "semi-war" and reengaged on a global nuclear arms accord.

But news reports said Washington would be asked to delay the departure of Marines normally based on the Japanese island of Okinawa, taking part this month in the Team Spirit exercises.

The aircraft carrier Independence, F-117A Stealth and B-1B bombers currently deployed in South Korea would also be asked to stay on to boost the permanent garrison of 36,000 U.S. troops, the reports said.

The Team Spirit war games, involving more than 120,000

troops from South Korea and the United States, are due to end Thursday, although it will take until the end of April for the last visiting U.S. forces to return home.

South Korea's Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae said Tuesday the North was trying to buy time to get rid on evidence that it was building nuclear arms.

"We have confirmed that North Korea is hurriedly trying to obliterate evidence by clearing the test site of high explosives at Yongbyon prior to inspections by the agency," he said.

Foreigners have been barred from entering North Korea and most outside communications have been cut off.

President Kim Young-Sam urged the North Tuesday to think again about withdrawing from the NPT. "As president, I strongly urge North Korea to take back its withdrawal from the NPT and allow international nuclear inspections," Mr. Kim said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said he was "very disturbed" by Pyongyang's move and hoped it would reconsider its withdrawal.

Ri Tcheul, Pyongyang's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said Monday war could break out "at any moment" with its southern neighbour.

South Korea, which says it has ruled out any military action, has put its 640,000 member armed forces on high alert. The two countries are still technically at war.

COLUMN 8

Nude Diana cartoons axed after outcry

LONDON (R) — Cartoons depicting a nude Princess Diana have been dropped from a British television documentary after an outcry among royalists who said the drawings were an affront to public decency. The artists' impressions of the estranged wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles in various states of undress were commissioned for Diana Unclad, a documentary due to be broadcast about the princess's sex appeal. A spokesman for Channel 4 television said Monday that senior executives had decided that cartoons of the princess in the nude were considered "inappropriate and unnecessary to get over the message of the programme." But the spokesman said one brief cartoon sequence of the 31-year-old princess doing a striptease to her underwear would still be broadcast. Selected pictures from the programme appeared on the front page of a top-selling British tabloid newspaper Friday. The documentary, presented by feminist author Camille Paglia, has been condemned as "exceeding the realms of common decency."

Borneo official in soup over birds nest monopoly

JAKARTA (R) — A Dayak tribesman in Indonesian Borneo is suing a district official for squeezing him out of a lucrative business in birds' nests, the Jakarta Post said. The suit, filed in a Jakarta court, calls for the annulment of a four-month old decree that turns the collection and sale of the nests over to a local businessman.

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Entrepreneur gambles on royal flush

NEW YORK (R) — A Dallas businessman smells opportunity in the troubles of Britain's royal family and hopes to capitalise with a new set of trading cards. Victor Shaffer, president of company called Press Pass, said the cards, to hit the market soon, are the first to be devoted to the lives of Britain's royals. The 110-card royal family collection will feature photos and illustrations depicting incidents from the lives of the royals with tabloid-style copy.

But at 34 years of age, the bilingual Quebecer is considered too young to win the leadership this time round.

Some conservatives fear Ms. Campbell will veer off the course of tight fiscal restraint plotted by Mr. Mulroney and are urging Mr. Mazankowski to run to counter Ms. Campbell's meteoric rise.

But Mr. Mazankowski, a former car dealer from Alberta, speaks no French, a big handicap to winning an election in a country where prime ministers have come from French-speaking Quebec for 24 of the last 25 years.

Mr. Mazankowski said he will announce his decision later this week, but he indicated he was a "long shot."

"First of all, I don't speak French," he said. "Secondly, I'm perceived as being part of the old guard in the party, and we need a new generation to take over the leadership."

Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall and Employment Minister Bernard Valcourt bowed out of the race over the weekend. Trade Minister Michael Wilson announced he was born after World War II, following closely in the steps of Bill Clinton in the United States.

Mr. Campbell is the only serious potential contender left and was expected to announce his decision Tuesday at his hometown in eastern Quebec.

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Sgt. Amott said that neither Officer Powell nor his partner, Officer Timothy Wind, asked for a blood or urine sample from Mr. King to detect any drugs or alcohol.

The symptoms of PCP intoxication have become central to the officer's federal trial because the defendants say they presumed Mr. King was on the drugs and thus was dangerous.

But nurse Martha Esperanza testified before Sgt. Amott took the stand that she interviewed Mr. King when he arrived at the jail ward of the hospital and found him "calm and cooperative." She said he told her he had been beaten.

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